

# THE HIDDEN BACKBONE OF YOUR KITCHEN

So few people give hardware due consideration when planning a kitchen. Because your hardware is hidden in cupboards and drawers it is often forgotten about. In reality hardware is the back bone of your kitchen. It is what keeps everything operational and in one piece. Fittings should form approximately 8% - 18% of the total cost of the kitchen. By paying a little more attention to your hardware choices you can seriously increase the longevity and functionality of your kitchen.



in the event of a flood. It is important to know that different legs have different load bearing capacities. If you are having heavy timber or stone tops it is vital that you use the legs with the maximum load bearing capacity or double up on your weaker legs to sustain the opening and closing of drawers and doors and the inevitable use of kitchen tops as a makeshift ladder or seat.

Drawer slides and hinges come in a wide range from the most basic to the most



One of the most important unseen parts of your kitchen is what supports your carcasses. This is hidden from view by a kick-plate but what is going on behind the kick-plate is supporting the entire structure. Most kitchen manufacturers now work with adjustable plastic legs. This is one of the best ways to support the structure and protect your carcasses from water damage. These adjustable legs allow the manufacturer to work with an unlevel floor too. It is important to ask your kitchen manufacturer what method they use to support the carcasses. If they have used a chipboard base of non water resistant board the integrity of your entire kitchen could be at risk

sophisticated soft close. Where ever possible it is important to invest wisely in quality here. These are the major moving mechanisms of your kitchen and will be subject to much use and if you have children, possibly, a little abuse. Ensure the hinges you choose can take the weight of the door you have chosen. If the door proves to be too heavy the hinges will drop or even over time pull out of the carcass or break. Try and opt for a hinge that offers you the ability to adjust. This will make levelling and aligning your doors a lot easier. Hinges installed in a holiday house or in cupboards that store chemicals should be cleaned with a damp cloth and sprayed with a protective



silicone spray every three to four months. This will prevent surface corrosion.

When it comes to drawer slides you need to ensure that the ones you have chosen will carry the weight of the drawer contents without dropping. Pot drawers in particular should have a good load bearing capacity and should be fixed with at least four strong screws to the cabinet. To ensure the full use of your drawer space it is a good idea to look for a product that will allow the drawer to open to its full extension. Worktops should never be cut or machined once drawer sliders have been fitted. The fine dust will destroy the bearings and render them useless. Using a quality product will ensure the long term smooth running of the drawer and lessen the chance of sagging.

It is in space saving that hardware really comes into its own. There are now a multitude of products that can assist with the organisation and maximisation of space in your kitchen. Drawer organisers will help keep your drawer units compartmentalised, clean and tidy. Corner units will ensure you get full use of the awkward spaces in your kitchen. Systems like carousels and pull out pantries allow better organisation of larger cupboard units. There are even systems available that allow you to utilise the dead space under your sink. These extras can be a costly addition to your kitchen but will more than pay for themselves in their practicality and convenience. They are a definite must if you are dealing with a compact kitchen.

Handles are one of the most important aesthetical elements in your kitchen and influence the overall look of the kitchen. Handles will be used every day and will have to endure dirt, damp and a lot of wear and tear. Choose a design not only for its looks but also for its practicality and durability. Give consideration to ease of opening and being able to grasp the handle or knob easily. Consider stainless steel handles if in a high corrosion area. For those looking for clean lines most hardware manufacturers now offer a push mechanism which allows the doors and drawers to have no handle and works by applying pressure to the door where the mechanism is installed.

Hardware plays a vital role in ensuring your kitchen lasts and works for you. As with all things you get a range of brands offering different quality and guarantees. Ensure you opt for a product coming from a reputable source and offering you a good guarantee. Most reputable products are LGA certified. You will never regret making the extra investment into good quality hardware fittings.

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